



National Commission on the Future of the Army
2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

MINUTES

Subject: Staff Meeting with HAC-D Professional Staff, July 24, 2015

Attendees:

NCFA Staff Director Mr. Rickey Smith
NCFA Director of Communications Mr. Joseph Eule
Designated Federal Officer Mr. Don Tison
HAC-D PSM Mr. Paul Terry

Date and Time: July 24, 2015, 1030-1130hrs

Meeting Minutes:

NCFA staff met with HAC-D PSM Paul Terry at the US Capitol to discuss the NCFA's methodology, structure, and staffing. After introductions, Mr. Terry said the insight he would offer is the Commission is "help, help!" He said he thought the Army was surprised by the reaction to Aviation Restructure Initiative and 40K troop cut announcement and added the ARNG feels it is being taken for granted. He offered that many Members are former National Guard members and are very supportive of National Guard.

Mr. Tison discussed the role of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), how the DFO staff is organized, and how DFO staff operates.

Mr. Smith then discussed how NCFA went about staffing and discussed several hires using the NCFA organizational chart. He then discussed the Commission's use of subcommittees, explaining how the Commission will get multiple looks at the same questions.

Mr. Terry asked about the travel schedule and Mr. Smith described how we determined where to conduct site visits and open meetings.

Mr. Terry talked about a recent trip to Korea and how there was so much to see and take in. Mr. Smith said our goal is to hear from each of the combatant commands. Mr. Terry asked if we have been "everywhere" or just "lots of places?" Mr. Smith answered, "lots of places" due to the size of the Army. He then discussed some of the particular site visits. Mr. Eule talked about the congressional outreach for each visit.

Mr. Terry asked about the National Governors Association engagement. Mr. Smith said Commissioners and NCFA staff were meeting with them right now and we have sent a Chairman letter asking each governor for answers to short list of questions.

Mr. Smith said the next big trip would be to California, where NCFA will have a public meeting.

Mr. Terry wanted to know what the Commissioners were doing. Mr. Smith discussed their roles, duties, and schedules, which led Mr. Tison to discuss how we monitor the Commissioners' work and how NCFA posts minutes, documents, et al to the website.

Mr. Terry asked about the outline of the final report. He specifically asked about the section, "Why the National has an Army." That led to a discussion about disputes between the Guard and regular Army.

Mr. Terry then talked about his experiences in a previous downsizing, when many talented officers were let go.

Mr. Smith said that the Commissioners were all committed to doing what is best for the Nation and there were no personality conflicts. That led to a discussion about the wide variety of experience resident in the NCFA Commissioners, which prompted Mr. Terry to ask who on the NCFA was from the Guard. Mr. Smith responded with describing the background of Mr. Lamont and NCFA Executive Director Gen. (Ret.) Ray Carpenter.

Mr. Terry asked about the timing of the NCFA final report. Mr. Tison said the report would be on time and further that the NCFA's work would be well under budget.

Mr. Eule encouraged Mr. Terry to visit the NCFA website, saying it was an excellent resource on the issues under the Commission's purview.

Mr. Terry talked a little about Germany. Mr. Smith discussed the Operational Subcommittee's schedule of talks with various military attaches from Japan, Great Britain, etc.

Paul Terry then discussed a trip that took him from the Middle East to the Baltics and how seeing things in person can be so much better than just looking at a map, after which there was a short discussion about ongoing activities for Strykers in Europe.

Mr. Terry asked rhetorically what would happen to the final product. He was concerned that the report might be ignored.

Mr. Eule asked Mr. Terry about potential ARI legislation and Mr. Terry said the authorizers had the lead on the issue. Mr. Eule then asked about prospects for a budget deal and Mr. Terry said there didn't seem to be anyone in Congress willing to be the leader of such an effort.

NCFA and HAC-D staff concluded by discussing when best to arrange a meeting between the NCFA leadership and the Chair and Ranking Member of the HAC-D.

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